

16 – 22 May 2025



bulletin



Adult and Health

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Equalities](#)[Justice](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)[Workforce](#)**Alzheimer's/Dementia**[Six most common signs of dementia](#)

The Alzheimer's Society, during Dementia Action Week (19-25 May), are publicising the six most common symptoms of dementia and encouraging people to seek help if they spot these signs in themselves or a loved one:

- Memory loss – problems recalling things that happened recently
- Difficulty organising thoughts – struggling to make decisions, solve problems or follow steps
- Problems using words or communicating – difficulties following conversations or struggling to find the right words
- Problems with vision – problems judging distances or perceiving object edges
- Getting confused about time or place – losing track of the time or date, or becoming confused about where they are
- Changes in mood or personality – becoming unusually anxious, irritable, or withdrawn.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Review of experiences of people with dementia \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published 'Dementia strategy: a review of the experiences of people with dementia in England and how health and care services are responding', reporting on what people were telling them, through surveys and feedback, about their experiences of living with dementia when using health and adult social care services, including the experiences of families and carers. The main themes in the review include access to health and care support, person-centred care, staffing and training, family and carers, and inequalities. The CQC's next steps will be to develop statutory guidance, define good practice, address the learning and development needs of their workforce, and continue to involve people, carers, key stakeholders and CQC staff in the development of this work.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Statement on Castlehill Care Home, Inverness](#)

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: "An inspection has identified serious and significant concerns about the quality of care experienced by residents of Castlehill Care Home in Inverness. We understand this is a difficult and distressing time for residents, their families and staff at the service. However, our first priority is always the health and wellbeing of those experiencing care. Because of our concerns we have issued an Improvement Notice to the service. This sets out the significant improvements that must be made within a specified timeframe. We are in contact with and monitoring the service to follow up on the required improvements."

Equalities

[Calls for communication support](#)

A campaign has been launched by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) calling for communication support and inclusive communication as a gateway to accessing human rights. 'More than Words: Communication for All' is calling for public recognition of the importance of communication for all, the Scottish Government to develop a Public Sector Equality Duty on inclusive communication, the Scottish Parliament to develop legislation and regulation to protect people's rights to inclusive communication (including minimum standards), and the Scottish Government and public bodies to work with expert groups to co-produce inclusive communication training, data collection, and monitoring and evaluation.

Justice

[Inquiry into the harm caused by substance misuse in Scottish Prisons](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee has launched an inquiry into the harm caused by substance misuse in Scottish prisons, reviewing the progress of the efforts to tackle illegal drug and substance supply in prisons, impact of drug and



other substance use in prisons, and rehabilitation and support for incarcerated drug users. A call for views has also been launched by the Committee which builds on concerns raised by members of the public who took part in a recent People's Panel, which looked at solutions for reducing drug deaths in Scotland and tackling problem drug use.

[Criminal Justice Committee annual report](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee has published their annual report for 2024-25. The report details the Committee's meetings and visits, Bills scrutinised, and inquiries on the topics of policing vulnerable people, reducing drug deaths, and the challenges facing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

[Review of support needs of families of people in custody](#)

The Scottish Government has published findings from a review of support needs of families of people in custody. It also includes reflection opportunities with people in custody, families, prison staff and key stakeholders to better understand the issues surrounding families affected by imprisonment. The literature underscores the importance of expanding the concept of family beyond traditional nuclear units to encompass extended family members, friends and former partners, and also highlights the multifaceted impacts of imprisonment on families, demonstrating the extensive emotional, financial, social and psychological challenges they experience.

Older People

[Partnership between Heriot-Watt and Age Scotland](#)

Heriot-Watt University and Age Scotland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), aimed at accelerating impactful research and innovation to enhance the lives of older people across the country. The MOU, which will be governed by a shared strategic plan and regular review, represents a long-term commitment by both institutions to ensure Scotland's ageing population benefits from inclusive, research-driven innovation.

Other Health and Social Care

[Second Scottish Government response to post legislative inquiry into SDS](#)

The Scottish Government's Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport Maree Todd MSP has written to the Convenor of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, providing the second half of the Scottish Government's response to the report and recommendations in relation to post legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) Scotland Act 2013. The Minister states that the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill and planned wider social care reforms, will address many of the Committee's recommendations, which asked the Scottish Government to set out how it would ensure national oversight of many aspects which are key to the successful delivery of SDS in Scotland. Detailed responses to the ten recommendations from the Committee's report are included, summarising activity underway or planned and led by the Scottish Government.



[Appointment of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Parliament has agreed to the appointment of Karen Titchener as the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland under schedule 1 paragraph 4 of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Act 2023.

[Planned downtime for SSSC website](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) website and MySSSC website will not be available on Monday 26 May until the afternoon of Tuesday 27 May, due to planned downtime. Alternative contact details have been provided for anyone reporting an urgent fitness to practise concern or with urgent enquiries.

Workforce

[Social work bursary uplift](#)

The Scottish Government has announced details of the social work bursary increase for students commencing courses in the academic year beginning August 2025. From 1 June, students will be able to apply for £11,000, split between £6,000 towards living costs and £5,000 for course fees. The scheme, funded by the Scottish Government and administered by the SSSC, will provide support to up to 250 students in the coming academic year.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on key developments concerning adults and health related issues.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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